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**SEP 3 0 2003**

In re Application of :  
Chatenever et al. :  
Application No.10/034,273 : **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**  
Filed: December 28, 2001 : **DECISION ON PETITION**  
Attorney Docket Number: :  
02580-P0006B :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed September 5, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 for the benefit of priority to prior-filed nonprovisional Application no. 10/039,931, filed November 9, 2001.

This Petition is hereby **granted**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(I) of the prior-filed application(s), unless previously submitted;<sup>1</sup>

(2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was

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<sup>1</sup> Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed on December 28, 2001. A reference to the prior filed nonprovisional application has been included in an Amendment to the specification in the first sentence following the title.

The instant pending application was filed on December 28, 2001, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

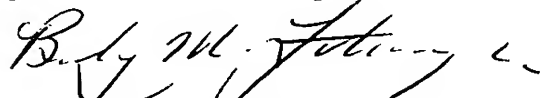
The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application. See 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application(s) under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s). In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s), all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

The Supplemental Declaration, filed on September 5, 2003 with the instant petition, has NOT been entered and made of record. A review of the file reveals that a fully executed oath or declaration was filed with the application on December 28, 2001. As such, a change to the order of inventors requires a petition under 37 CFR 1.182, and fee.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 2615 for consideration by the Examiner of applicant's claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (2) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application, and for examination in due course.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to petitions attorney Derek L. Woods at (703) 305-0014.



Beverly M. Flanagan  
Supervisory Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

enclosure:        Corrected Filing Receipt